

**The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality HAS NOT EXTENDED the Ozone Advisory that is in effect for Tuesday, May 23, 2000 until 8pm.**

PHOENIX, Arizona (May 23, 2000) - After two days in a row of potentially high ozone levels, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality is not extending the High Pollution Advisory (HPA) for Wednesday. Today's HPA is in effect until 8 p.m. tonight. No exceedances were recorded at any of the 20 Valley-wide air quality monitors.

The high ozone readings recorded for Monday, May 22 were:

- Blue Point, 88 parts per billion at 2 p.m.
- South Phoenix, 86 parts per billion at 1 p.m.
- Rio Verde 85 parts per billion at 4 p.m.

The standard for ozone set by the EPA is for one-hour exposure. Concentrations of ozone greater than 124 parts per billion averaged over one hour are counted as ozone exceedances. However, the attainment status of an area such as metropolitan Phoenix is based on a three-year record. An ozone violation occurs when any monitor records four or more exceedances in three consecutive years. Monitors operated by Maricopa County and ADEQ have not measured any exceedances of the ozone standard in 1997, 1998, and 1999. It would take four exceedances at any one monitor in 2000 to constitute a violation.

To help reduce the need to issue a high pollution advisory and keep our air healthy, we encourage all Valley residents to continue to carpool, ride the bus, telecommute, walk and bike. Re-fueling after 4 p.m. and not using gas powered lawn and garden equipment also make significant contributions to reducing the Valley's pollution levels.